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# Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /089 W
----------119589 160636Z /13
P R 160335Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6478
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SUVA 1108

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, PGOV, FJ
SUBJECT: FIJI ALLEGES U.S. NEGLECT OF SOUTH PACIFIC

REF: SUVA 978 PARA 8 (NOTAL)

1. IN SOMEWHAT PETULANT INTERVIEW ON RADION FIJI, GOF AMBASSADOR TO U.S., CANADA AND UN, BERNARDO VUNIBOBO, ASSERTED THERE HAS BEEN

NO "SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT" IN RELATIONS BETWEEN FIJI AND U.S. SINCE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TOOK OFFICE BECAUSE AS FAR AS UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED SOUTH PACIFIC DOES NOT EXIST. THEIR ENTIRE EFFORT IS DIVIDIED OR DEVOTED TO AREAS IN WHICH THERE APPEARS TO BE THREAT TO AMERICAN INTERESTS AND I THINK IT FAIR TO SAY WHEN GOING GETS ROUGH INTEREST OF U.S. IS IDENTIFIED WITH INTERESTS OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND CANADA.".

2. TO QUESTION ON U.S. REACTION TO SOVIET AND PRC INITIATIVES IN
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SOUTH PACIFIC, VUNOBOBO RESPONDED THAT QUERY IMPLIED "WHAT ONE MIGHT CALL A SHORTCOMING IN WAY U.S. TENDS TO LOOK AT THINGS." AMBASSADOR WENT ON TO CHARGE FOREIGN AID OFFERED AS SOMEWHAT SELFJISH, COMPETITIVE MEANS OF SAFEGUARD INTERESTS OF DONORS, RATHER THAN ON MERITS OF DESERVING RECIPIENTS. "TO ME THAT IS PRETTY POOR WAY OF HELPING.".

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3. SKED IF HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE AMERICAN INTERESTS AND INFLUENCE INCREASE IN PACCIFIC, VUNIBIBO LAMENTED THAT "OTHER THAN PEACE CORPS THEY'RE ALMOST NONEXISTENT . . THIS PART OF WORLD IS PEACEFUL,

WE ARE POOR ANDYET WE DO NOT SEEM MERIT SAME CONSIDERATION OTHER PARTS OF WORLD HAS RECEIVED EVEN THOUGH OUR NEEDS QUITE MODEST.

4. ENVOY WENT TON TO INCLUDE OTHER TARGETS IN CHARGE OF NEGLECT: "ONE CAN SEE SAME SORT OF TREND WITH CANADIANS, WITH SCANDINAVIANS, WE ARE NOW BEGINNING TO GET HELP FROM EEC, BUT OVERALL THOUGH SOUTH PACIFIC IS THE FORGOTTEN PART OF WORLD AND YOU SEE THIS REFLECTED EVEN IN UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. IF THE GOING GETS ROUGH OUR REGIONAL PROGRAMS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE CHOPPED THAN PROGRAMS FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD AND OTHER REGIONS AND PART OF IT IS THAT WE DO NOT HAVE POLITICAL OR DIPLOMATIC MUSCLE TO SCREAM WHEN SOMEONE TRIES TO TAMPER WITH OUR ALLOCATION".

5. THAT VUNIBOBO'S INTERVIEW REFLECTS DEVELOPING EFFORT BY GOF TO INVOLVE USG MORE HEAVILY IN AID TO FIJI AND SOUTH PACIFIC IS POINTED UP BY SIMILAR LINE HE TOOK WITH ME DURING DISCUSSION WHEN HE ENROUTE TO RECENT FORUM MEETING IN PORT MORESBY. MAIN THRUST WAS THAT U.S. SHOULD DO MORE FOR FIJI AND AREA, COUPLED WITH LOW-KEY REMINDER OF FIJI'S GENERALLY MODERATE AND SUPPORTIVE POSITIONS IN UN. I ENDEAVORED DEFLECT THIS WITH EXPRESSION OUR SPECIAL APPRECIATION THAT GOF POSITIONS IN UN WERE BASED ON PRINCIPLE, HAS NO TINGE OF CLIENT-PATRON RELATIONSHIP. I ALSO NOTED THAT, APART FROM OUR CONFIDENTIAL

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AID VIA MULTIALTERAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, WE CONTRIBUTE ABOUT $1 MILLION ANNUALLY THROUGH PEACE CORPS HERE AND LARGE SUMS IN TONGA AND WESTERN SAMOA.

6. WHEN I REMINDED VUNIBOBO THAT NEW POLICY ON AID EMPHASIZES MOST NEEDY NATIONS AND THAT FIJI ABOVE CUT-OFF, HE CITED NATION'S UNDENIABLY EXCELLENT RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENERAL WORTHINESS AS NEEDY RECIPIENT. HE SEEMED LITTLE IMPRESSED WITH DESCRIPTION PLANS ASSIST W. SAMOA AND TONGA THROUGH PVOS. THROUGHOUT AMBASSADOR'S PITCH WAS FAMILIAR THREAD OF RESENTMENT AT HEAVY GOF DEPENDENCE ON AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND AS DONORS, ACCUSSING FORMER OF "INSENSITIVITY". BUT HE ACKNOWWLEDGED HIGH VALUE OF THEIR ASSISTANCE IN COMMENTING ON MY REMARK THAT NEARBY COMMONWEALTH PARTNERS STRUCJK ME AS NATURAL AND RESPONSIVE DONORS AND THAT IF DIFFICULT FOR USG FACE IN ALL DIRECTIONS AT ONCE.

7. COMMENT: GOF APPROACH, EMANATING FROM PRIMEMIN RATU MARA'S OFFICE, BASED ON CALCULATION THAT MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF BRINGING US MORE PROMINENTLY INTO AID PICTURE IS TO SHAME USG AS GREAT POWER WHICH IS IGNORING SMALL FRIENDS SHARING SAME HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES WHILE PURSUING LARGER INTERESTS WITH STRONGER BUT LESS REPUTABLE NATIONS ELSEWHERE.

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MORAL APPEAL, TOUCHED WITH REGRET AND GENTLE
BLACKMAIL, HINTS THAT USG SHOULD NOT TAKE FIJIAN GOODWILL FOR
GRANTED. IN PURSUING THIS LINE, HOWEVER, GOF IS HOIST WITH OWN
PETARD SINCE PRAISEWORTHY INDEPENDENT STANCE IN UN IS ONE FROM
WHICH THIS PROUD GOVT WOULD NT EASILY DEPART IN ORDER PRESS
FOR AID.

8. VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT PERTINENT PARTS OF TAPED INTERVIEW
BEING POUCHED DEPT., USUN, AND WELLINGTON.
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# Message Attributes

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**Subject:** FIJI ALLEGES U.S. NEGLECT OF SOUTH PACIFIC
**TAGS:** EAID, PGOV, FJ, US, (VUNIBOBO, BERNARDO)
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
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